



News Release

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Western's Developmental Math Program Receives National Award

St. Joseph, Mo.—March 5, 2003—The Developmental Math Program (DMP) at Missouri Western State College received the National Association of Developmental Education (NADE) award for an Outstanding Developmental Program. It will be presented during the NADE conference in Austin, Texas this week. The selection comes from submissions of award applications from not only developmental math and English programs, but also learning center programs.

Victoria “Y” Wacek, former director of the DMP, said the goals and objectives of the 12-year-old program are to provide an understanding of math anxiety and avail an all-out help to students through not only lessons in class, but also intensive and extensive tutoring. The DMP students also have online assessments and learning practices.

“The required mathematics course for a baccalaureate degree may be a gatekeeper for many students who struggle with math,” Wacek said. “Many DMP students have gone on to graduate who might not have been able to pass the “gate” had it not been for the DMP.”

Wacek said the award is not just an accomplishment for the DMP, but for Western as well.

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“The Outstanding Program Award is an award for Western as an institution that cares about its students,” Wacek said. “Even the under-prepared ones are welcomed and provided with high quality support services.”

Western developed beginning algebra and intermediate algebra courses in 1991 to prepare students for the required general studies college-level math. After the program was implemented, the DMP became a separate sub-discipline within the computer science, math and physics department. There are about 600 students enrolled in the DMP each semester.

R. E. Moore, director of the DMP, teaches alongside David R. McWilliams and Tyra Warke. Part-time instructors teach the balance of the classes.

Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.

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